Freedom of Information Act 2000 & Environmental Information Regs. 2004

Reference Number: FOI 004631

Request:

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to formally request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the provision of public lighting at Hilly Fields Community Park in Medway.

Specifically, I would appreciate clarification on the following points:
1. Current Status of Public Lighting:
• Is Hilly Fields Community Park currently included in any public lighting schemes, or is there any plan for the installation of lighting in the near future?
• If lighting is not currently provided, what specific reasons or considerations have contributed to the park being left unlit at night?
2. Planning and Decision-Making Process:
• Can you provide details on any assessments or studies that have been carried out regarding the potential installation of lighting in Hilly Fields Community Park?
• Were there any community consultations or feedback from local residents that influenced the decision regarding lighting in the park?
3. Future Plans or Proposals:
• Are there any ongoing discussions or future proposals for the provision of public lighting at Hilly Fields Community Park? If so, could you provide the expected timeline for such plans, as well as the specific locations within the park that are being considered for lighting?
• Has any funding been allocated for such improvements, and if so, what is the anticipated cost for the installation of public lighting?
4. Safety and Accessibility Considerations:
• Has Medway Council considered the implications of the park's current lack of lighting on public safety, particularly after dark? I believe the park could provide a much safer route at night, from Railway Street all the way down to Pier Road and vice versa, if it were adequately lit.
• The absence of lighting makes the park an uninviting and potentially hazardous route, discouraging use and limiting accessibility for pedestrians, especially during the darker months. Could you provide any reports or findings from safety audits conducted in relation to this issue?
• Has the council received any formal complaints or reports from residents or park users about safety concerns in the park due to the absence of lighting?

I kindly request that this information be provided at your earliest convenience. If some of the information is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, I would appreciate being informed of the specific exemptions that apply.

Should you require any further clarification or have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

If you wish to receive further information in regards to this request or wish to submit a Freedom of Information Request please forward your request to freedom@medway.gov.uk or Information Governance Team, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR.

Freedom of Information Act 2000 & Environmental Information Regs. 2004

Medway Council
Serving You

Response:

1. Current Status of Public Lighting:
• Is Hilly Fields Community Park currently included in any public lighting schemes, or is there any plan for the installation of lighting in the near future? No
• If lighting is not currently provided, what specific reasons or considerations have contributed to the park being left unlit at night? All Medway Parks are open dawn until dusk. The Council does not wish to encourage after dark activity that can sometimes lead to anti social behavour.
2. Planning and Decision-Making Process:
• Can you provide details on any assessments or studies that have been carried out regarding the potential installation of lighting in Hilly Fields Community Park? There have been none.
• Were there any community consultations or feedback from local residents that influenced the decision regarding lighting in the park? Lighting or lack of lighting has never been raised as an issue at Hilly Fields.
3. Future Plans or Proposals:
• Are there any ongoing discussions or future proposals for the provision of public lighting at Hilly Fields Community Park? If so, could you provide the expected timeline for such plans, as well as the specific locations within the park that are being considered for lighting? There are no discussions being held or future proposals for lighting at Hilly Fields.
• Has any funding been allocated for such improvements, and if so, what is the anticipated cost for the installation of public lighting? No funds have been allocated so there is no estimate of cost.
4. Safety and Accessibility Considerations:
• Has Medway Council considered the implications of the park's current lack of lighting on public safety, particularly after dark? I believe the park could provide a much safer route at night, from Railway Street all the way down to Pier Road and vice versa, if it were adequately lit. There has been no study or work to look into this.
• The absence of lighting makes the park an uninviting and potentially hazardous route, discouraging use and limiting accessibility for pedestrians, especially during the darker months. Could you provide any reports or findings from safety audits conducted in relation to this issue? There are none
• Has the council received any formal complaints or reports from residents or park users about safety concerns in the park due to the absence of lighting? We have received no complaints or reports from residents or park users about lighting at Hilly Fields.

I trust this information is to your satisfaction, however, if you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Information Governance Manager, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR., or email freedom@medway.gov.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

If you wish to receive further information in regards to this request or wish to submit a Freedom of Information Request please forward your request to freedom@medway.gov.uk or Information Governance Team, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR.